

## House Republican Press Release

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### There is still time



*By state Rep. Toni Boucher, R-143rd, Wilton, Norwalk*

The state legislature is coming down to the wire. Members of the state House and Senate are debating day and night, even on weekends, up to the legislature's constitutional adjournment deadline of May 3 at midnight.

Yet, major job-stimulating agenda items proposed by Gov. M. Jodi Rell and legislators from both parties are in peril of dying as time runs out.

However, if the legislature truly has the will to back up a much-publicized jobs agenda with action, there is still time to enact important legislation. Vocal public support in the next few days can help turn the tide.

Hanging in the balance are measures to lessen the state's heavy tax burden, revive the lagging job market, stimulate economic growth and make Connecticut competitive again. Among proposals currently in jeopardy are:

- Reducing taxes such as the municipal property tax on manufacturing equipment, the 20 percent state corporate income tax surcharge that was reimposed last year and taxes on energy bills
- Plugging a massive \$5 billion deficit in the state teachers' retirement system
- Saving (not spending) a large portion of a projected \$600 million surplus for future economic downturns
- Reforming or repealing the estate tax that was imposed retroactively to January 2005. By all accounts, this tax was poorly drafted in the first place. My vote has always been to repeal it.
- Providing tax incentives to attract jobs and business investment to Connecticut
- Requiring a jobs impact statement on every piece of proposed legislation

- Eliminating the annual property tax on people's automobiles, finally removing a burdensome tax altogether (and with a way to pay for it.)
- Reforming the state school aid formula that shortchanges southwestern Connecticut towns and cities
- Eliminating the ability of local government to take property under eminent domain laws for private development projects.

These are some of our agenda items that are in dire jeopardy as the adjournment clock ticks. These are important issues that the legislature still could address in the few remaining days.

There are legislators who do not believe me when I say Connecticut taxpayers are changing their residences to other states. Small and large businesses are moving out of state to avoid our high costs. I know this is happening more and more frequently, from direct contact and discussion with these individuals and companies.

The more we lose jobs, and the resident base that goes with them, the less clout we will have in Congress and less funding for our infrastructure improvements.

It is important that Hartford hears from members of the public on these and other issues. There is strength in numbers. That has been proven over and over again. If dozens of residents call their legislators, there should be a response.

Please let us hear from you, while there is still time. You can go on the Connecticut General Assembly webpage to the House or Senate and click on Find Your Legislator and send him or her an email. Or go to: <http://cga.ct.gov/maps/townlist.asp>

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